

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 22 through 47 are pending, with Claims 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, and 37 being independent. Claims 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, and 37 have been amended.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in granting and conducting on April 19, 2007, a personal interview with Applicants' representative. At the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the features of Claim 46, and Applicants understand that the Examiner is in tentative agreement that Claim 46 avoids the outstanding rejection; accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claim 46 be indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Instead of incorporating Claim 46 into the independent claims, Applicants wish instead to incorporate an expression of intermediate scope, which Applicants believe also avoids the grounds of rejection. While no agreement was reached at the interview regarding such an expression, Applicants respectfully submit that the expression is sufficient to avoid the grounds of rejection.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

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